

S E C R E T

16 NOV 1981

SUBJECT: Topic for Discussion at DCI Breakfast Meeting
with Secretary Haig on 17 November 1981

Situation in Eastern Chad

There have been few developments subsequent to the attached memorandum. The Libyan withdrawal from Chad which began on 3 November continues apace and it appears that the Libyans may be able to complete their withdrawal considerably sooner than the 31 December deadline imposed by the GUNT.

There now is confirmed evidence that a large portion of the departing Libyan forces have redeployed to the Aozou strip area of northern Chad. As yet there have been no reported incidents of interfactional fighting in the wake of the Libyan pullout, although such conflict is a distinct possibility at any time.

On 11 November 1981, Hissein Habre agreed to travel to Khartoum for discussions with the Egyptians and Sudanese regarding suspension of all FAN military operations. However, subsequent to his agreement to travel to Khartoum, heavy fighting reportedly broke out in eastern Chad. On 13 and 14 November, Habre sent several messages to the Sudanese Government denying that his forces had initiated the fighting and blaming the Libyan and French news agencies for deliberately distorting the facts to create tension between Habre and the Sudanese. Habre did admit to peacefully occupying the eastern Chadian towns of Iriba and Guereda and stated that his forces were welcomed by the Chadian military garrisons in each of the two towns. Habre informed the Sudanese that he would be forced to remain in Chad because of the complicated situation, but was dispatching FAN Command Council Vice President Idris Miskine to Khartoum. Miskine was due to arrive in Khartoum on 14 November and would represent Habre in the discussions with the Sudanese and Egyptians.

Attachment -
13 Nov 81 Memo

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Topic for Discussion at DCI Breakfast Meeting
with Secretary Weinberger on 13 November 1981

Situation in Eastern Chad

The Libyans continue to withdraw from Ndjamena, the Chari-Baguirmi region and eastern Chad as a result of the 30 October GUNT cabinet resolution calling for total Libyan withdrawal from the country by 31 December 1981. It appears that the bulk of departing Libyan forces have redeployed to the Aozou area of northern Chad, which is a remote region near the Libyan border. Nevertheless, Qadhafi may be able to claim total withdrawal of his forces from Chad because Libya considers the uranium-rich Aozou strip to be Libyan territory. Although we have no reporting as yet on Qadhafi's intentions, he may plan to reinsert his troops into central and eastern Chad should Chadian factional fighting resume before the OAU Peacekeeping Force (PKF) arrives or after if the PKF is unable to maintain order. We have received sensitive reporting that the withdrawing Libyan troops have handed over some of their arms to the forces of Acyl and Abba Said, both of whom oppose the withdrawal of Libyan troops.

The Sudanese and Egyptians have expressed to Department of State envoys their concurrence that Habre should be restrained from conducting offensive operations against Libyan and GUNT forces. Sudanese President Nimeiri has sent a personal message to Habre asking him to suspend all military operations in Chad. Habre replied in a message to Nimeiri that he was willing to cease operations for one week only unless the following conditions were met:

- 1) cessation of direct French aid to GUNT President Goukouni;
- 2) assured OAU and PKF neutrality toward all Chadian factions; and
- 3) inclusion of Habre's FAN in a Chadian National Reconciliation Conference, to be held immediately.

S E C R E T

[REDACTED] on 9 November President Nimeiri assured Habre that he would be a full participant in any Chadian national reconciliation and stressed the necessity of Habre not initiating any military activity during the Libyan withdrawal from Chad. Nimeiri also invited Habre to visit Khartoum to discuss the situation in person. Should Habre refuse to visit Khartoum or should he resume any military activity in Chad, Nimeiri reportedly is prepared to cease all support to Habre and to close the Sudan-Chad border to Habre's forces.

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Also on 9 November, Nimeiri informed the Egyptian Government that Habre had agreed to suspend military operations in Chad for a one-week period. However, after agreeing to the suspension, the Sudanese had learned that some of Habre's forces had moved from bases in Sudan to occupy the eastern Chadian villages of Guereda and Iriba. Nimeiri apparently viewed this activity as a violation of the agreement and as a result, asked the Egyptians to suspend all further shipments of equipment and weapons to Habre, to which they agreed. The Egyptians subsequently passed word to Habre that they would like to meet with him in Khartoum on 14 November. If Habre decides to travel to Khartoum to meet with the Sudanese and Egyptians, as seems likely, it should afford an opportunity for all parties to resolve their differences. [REDACTED]

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DDO/AF/HR
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